

***Remarks***

***I. Status of the Claims***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 89 and 143 are sought to be amended. Claims 90, 91, 144, 145, 182-195 and 238-249 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in related applications. These amendments add no new matter to the application. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendments are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 78-89 and 134-143 are pending in the application, with claims 78 and 134 being the independent claims. The Examiner has allowed pending claims 78-89 and 134-143.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and that they be withdrawn.

***II. Objection to claims 182-195 and 238-249***

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 182-195 and 238-249 have been objected to for allegedly being duplicative of claims 78-91 and 134-145, respectively. Applicants respectfully disagree with this objection. However, in an effort to advance prosecution and not in acquiescence to the Examiner's objection, Applicants have canceled claims 182-195 and 238-249. Accordingly, this objection has been rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

**III. Additional Matter**

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) ordered in a telephone conference with Applicants on March 13, 2007 that Applicants provide Notice to the BPAI of the filing of this Amendment and Reply. Thus, Applicants have concurrently notified the BPAI, via facsimile, of the filing of this Amendment and Reply. In addition, Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that a "Contingent Suggestion for Declaration of Interference under 37 C.F.R. § 41.202" was filed on April 24, 2007 in U.S. Application No. 10/052,798 ("the '798 application") suggesting an interference between the '798 application and the above-captioned application.

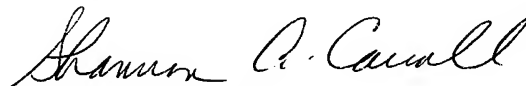
**IV. Conclusion**

All of the stated grounds of objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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